

July 10, 2006

**MINUTES OF A JOINT MEETING OF THE
TORRANCE LIBRARY COMMISSION AND
TORRANCE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Library and Parks and Recreation Commissions convened in a joint session at 7:06 p.m. on Monday, July 10, 2006 at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: **Library Commission:**
Commissioners Chappell, Grogan, Lang, Wang, and
Chairperson Roberts.

Absent: Library Commissioners Botello and Haig.

Parks and Recreation Commission:
Commissioners Cook, Robbins, Smoot, Taniguchi,
Tookey, and Chairperson McGee.

Also Present: City Librarian Weiner, Principal Librarian Theyer,
Community Services Director Barnett, Recreation Services
Administrator Jones, and Senior Project Leader Orpe.

3. FLAG SALUTE

Chairperson McGee led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Robbins moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Chappell seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. NEW BUSINESS

**5A. PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON
AND VICE CHAIRPERSON FOR 2006-07**

Recreation Services Administrator Jones advised that typically seniority was used as a basis for electing Parks and Recreation Commission officers and that the transition would take place on July 19, 2006 at the Parks and Recreation Commission Awards banquet.

MOTION: Commissioner Robbins moved to elect Commissioner Cook as Chairperson and Commissioner Tookey as Vice Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Commission for 2006-2007. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Taniguchi; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

Commissioner Smoot related her regrets that she would be unable to attend the National Recreation and Parks Association Awards banquet.

Commissioners Grogan and Wang requested excused absences for the August 14, 2006 Library Commission meeting.

MOTION: Commissioner Lang, seconded by Commissioner Chappell, moved to grant excused absences to Commissioners Grogan and Wang for the August 14, 2006 Library Commission meeting; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioners Botello and Haig).

5B. INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSION MEMBERS

5B.1 LIBRARY COMMISSION

Library Commissioners took turns introducing themselves and shared information on their backgrounds.

5B.2 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Parks and Recreation Commissioners took turns introducing themselves and shared information on their backgrounds.

City Librarian Weiner, Recreation Services Administrator Jones, and Community Services Director Barnett introduced themselves and welcomed Commissioners to the joint meeting.

6. ORALS

This item was considered out of order.

Friends of the Library Vice-President Dobratz provided background information about Friends of the Torrance Library and distributed an Internet sales summary report. He noted that Friends now makes over \$100,000 per year and discussed the success of their Internet book sales. He expressed concern that, while the quantity and quality of donations was increasing, the Friends were losing its core of volunteers and was in desperate need of new people.

City Librarian expressed appreciation for all that Friends of the Torrance Library does, including donations of all public computers in the libraries.

5C. COMMISSION MISSION STATEMENTS

5C.1 LIBRARY COMMISSION

Commissioner Grogan read the Torrance Library Commission Vision Statement and Commissioner Chappell read the Torrance Library Commission Mission Statement.

5C.2 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Commissioner Smoot read the Parks and Recreation Commission Mission Statement.

5D. DISCUSS STRUCTURE OF COMMISSIONS: STANDING COMMITTEES; AD HOC COMMITTEES

Chairperson Roberts briefly described Library committees: Metropolitan Cooperative Library System (MCLS) and Systems Advisory Board, Torrance Unified School District Education Council of Torrance TUSD ECT, and Torrance Public Library Foundation. She noted that the Library Commission belongs to California Library Association (CLA) and California Association for Library Trustees and Commissioners (CALTAC).

Commissioners Lang and Wang briefly discussed their ad hoc committee's association with Torrance homeowners associations.

Commissioner Taniguchi read the description of the Parks and Recreation Commission Programs Committee, Facilities Committee, and Open Space Committee.

Recreation Services Administrator Jones relayed Park Services Manager Wilson's regret for being unable to attend this meeting and provided an overview of the Recreation Services and Park Services divisions.

5E. IDENTIFY AND DISCUSS ACTIVITIES AND/OR INTERESTS COMMON TO BOTH COMMISSIONS

Chairpersons Roberts and McGee led a discussion regarding commonalities between the Library Commission and Parks and Recreation Commission.

Chairperson McGee suggested that the Commissions consider joint youth activities.

Commissioner Tookey initiated discussion centered on involving Torrance youth and seniors with volunteer opportunities with Friends of the Torrance Library.

Commissioner Tookey stated that he was excited that all branch libraries were still open and suggested that the Commissions work together to raise public awareness about capital funding sources.

Commissioner Lang suggested that the Commissions work together on capital projects such as security lighting at El Retiro Branch Library and landscaping at Henderson Branch Library.

City Librarian Weiner noted that City Council has been responsive this year to the Library's capital budget request list.

Community Services Director Barnett commended the Library Commission for being very effective lobbyists to City Council over the years.

Commissioner Robbins suggested encouraging participants in the City's sports programs to visit the Library and participate in Library activities.

Responding to Commissioner Taniguchi's inquiry, Chairperson Roberts and Commissioner Grogan described the annual Library Commission and City Council social meeting.

Chairperson McGee noted that the Library Commission meets at branch libraries and suggested that the Parks and Recreation Commission meet at various City park sites.

City Librarian Weiner described the popularity of the Read the Book/See the Movie program.

Commissioner Tookey suggested that the two Commissions coordinate their meetings with homeowner association meetings.

5F. IDENTIFY POSSIBLE PARTNERSHIPS FOR FUTURE EVENTS

Commissioner Grogan suggested that the Commissions meet when there is an issue coming up that both could be involved in.

In response to Commissioner Tookey's inquiry, Community Services Director Barnett stated that the population of Torrance has grown from 138,000 in the early 1980s to 145,000 today. He discussed the influx of housing and young people, the increased demand for services, and the open space ratio.

City Librarian Weiner noted the huge demographic shift in the City in the last 20 years as well as challenges involved with having branch libraries attached to parks.

Commissioner Lang stated that the branch libraries were small and were not built with computers and homework centers in mind.

Recreation Services Administrator Jones pointed out the tremendous demand for lit outdoor facilities.

Principal Librarian Theyer discussed after-school students at Southeast Branch Library and expressed concern about the proposed closure of Hull.

Commissioner Tookey suggested that the Commissions stay in touch through their liaisons before budget meetings to discuss encouraging resident involvement and education.

Commissioner Grogan suggested that homeowners associations be invited to Library Commission meetings at branch libraries.

6. **ORALS**

Chairperson McGee reminded Commissioners that the National Recreation and Parks Association Awards dinner to honor individuals would be held on July 19, 2006.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: At 8:37 p.m., Commissioner Robbins moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Smoot seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

The next Library Commission meeting will be on Monday, August 14, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library.

The Parks and Recreation Commission adjourned to its next regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, August 9, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

Parks & Recreation Commission Approved as Submitted August 9, 2006 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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Library Commission Approved as Submitted August 14, 2006 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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